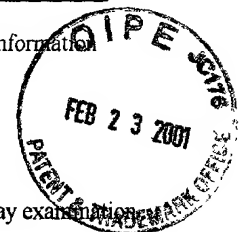


02-26-01

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO

23 FEB 2001

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		Attorney's Docket Number 70031
		U.S. Application No. (if known per 37 C.F.R. 1.53) 09/763785
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE99/02554	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 18/August/1999	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 25/August/1998
TITLE OF INVENTION A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR PLACING AND RE-MELTING SHAPED PARTS OF SOLDER MATERIAL		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US MOMENI et al.		



Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other documents (s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☒ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:
Formal Drawings (6 sheets)
Copy of Express Mail Receipt No. EL275480368US
Copies of Cited References (10)
Copy of the International Search Report
Marked Up Copy of the Translation

U.S. Appl. No. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.55) 09/763785		International Application No. PCT/DE99/02554	Attorney's Docket Number 70031
17. [X] The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$690.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$710.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482 nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) \$100.00		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$ 860.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [] 20 [] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e))		\$ 0	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total Claims	20 - 20 =	0	X \$ 18.00
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$ 80.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)		+ \$270.00	\$ 0
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$ 0	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)		\$ 430.00	
SUBTOTAL =		\$ 430.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation late than [] 20 [] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).		\$ 0	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =		\$ 430.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property		\$ 0	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =		\$ 430.00	
		Amount to be: refunded	\$
		charged	\$

- a. [X] A check in the amount of \$ 430.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. [] Please charge my Deposit Account No. 13-0410 in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13.0410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

Send all correspondence to:

McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.
Scarborough Station
Scarborough, NY 10510-0827

Signature

John James McGlew
Name

31,903
Registration Number

09/763785

McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C. JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 FEB 2001

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents
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Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: ATTORNEY DOCKET: 70031
Customer Number: 000023872


Sir:

Attached please find the complete application papers and Small Entity fees in the above-identified application which are being placed in the U.S. Mail today, February 23, 2001, as Express Mail number EL275480368US.

A copy of the Express Mail receipt is also attached.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant(s),

By:


John James McGlew
Reg. No. 31,903

JJM:sk

Enclosures - Complete Application Papers and Fees
- Copy of Express Mail Receipt

DATED: February 23, 2001
SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-0827
(914) 941-5600

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 70031

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : MOMENI et al.
PCT No : PCT/DE99/02554
Filed : February 7, 2001
For : A METHOD....
Dated : February 23, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification originally filed, with the enclosed substitute specification. A marked up copy of the original specification is attached. Applicant states that no new matter has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 to 20 without prejudice with the following new claims for initial examination on the merits:

21. A method for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond

pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads, method comprising the steps of:

5 arranging a template device, comprising a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped parts of solder material opposite a substrate comprising a bond pad arrangement, such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads;

10 applying laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures using a laser device arranged at the rear of the template device such that said laser energy is applied to the shaped parts of solder material through the template device.

22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

 selecting shaped parts of solder material from the bulk of shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template device wherein by filling the template apertures arranged in an aperture screen.

23. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

 filling the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device to select the shaped parts of solder material from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material outside the template device.

24. The method according to one claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
scanning of the template apertures using an optical scanning device for detecting shaped parts of solder material, prior to the application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein, application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material takes place via the optical scanning device.

26. The method according to claim 22, wherein, said step of filling of the template apertures arranged in the aperture screen of the template device takes place using a filling chamber movable over the aperture screen, said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.

27. The method according to claim 22, wherein, said step of filling of the template apertures arranged in the aperture screen of the template device takes place using a paddle-wheel device guided substantially in parallel to the surface of the aperture screen, rotating on a movement axis.

28. The method according to claim 23, wherein, said step of filling of the template apertures arranged in the aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of pressure below atmospheric.

29. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

exerting pressure on the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures for establishing contact with the bond pads by applying pressure above atmospheric pressure.

30. A device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads, the device comprising:

5 a template device with a container for accommodating a quantity of shaped parts of solder material, said container comprising a container wall forming an aperture screen, for conveying shaped parts of solder material to the bond pad arrangement, the aperture screen comprising a selecting device such that shaped parts of solder material which have been
10 singled out from the quantity of shaped parts of solder material and allocated to individual bond pads of the bond pad arrangement, are arranged so as to be exposed, in template apertures of the aperture screen, and thus can be exposed to laser energy from the rear by means of a laser device.

31. The device according to claim 30, wherein, the selecting device is movable over the aperture screen.

32. The device according to claim 31, wherein, the selecting device is a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen, said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.

33. The device according to claim 31, wherein, the selecting device is a paddle-wheel device movable over the aperture screen, with radially open transport compartments delimited by paddles of the paddle-wheel device.

34. The device according to claim 30, wherein, the selecting device is accommodated in a space closed by the template device with a rear wall opposite the aperture screen made transparent.

35. A device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads, the device comprising;

5 a template device with a selecting device, said template device including a housing with an aperture screen comprising a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped parts of solder material and a transparent rear wall, opposite the aperture screen.

36. The device according to claim 35, wherein, the diameter of the template

apertures formed in the aperture screen is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material.

37. The device according to claim 35, wherein, the diameter of the template apertures formed in the aperture screen is larger than the largest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, and that the distance between the aperture screen and the rear wall is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material (20).

38. The device according to one or several of claim 30, wherein, one or both of the wall structure of the aperture screen and the sidewalk of the filling chamber, which can be moved over the aperture screen, is flexible across the area of the aperture screen.

39. The device according to claim 38, wherein, the wall structure comprises at least three layers, with a flexible compression layer sandwiched between two wear-resistant surface layers.

40. The device according to claim 39, wherein, the compression layer is made from a plastic material, and the surface layers are made from metal.

REMARKS

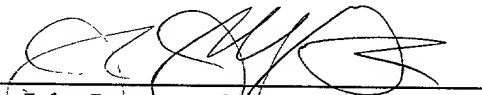
Claims 21 through 40 are in this application and are presented for consideration.

1 through 20 have been canceled. The new claims present subject matter similar to the original claims, but in a different form.

The specification and claims have been amended in order to place this application in better form. The reference to claims in the specification has been deleted or amended. Appropriate headings have been added. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: 
John James McGlew
Registration No. 31,903
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM:jj/ebf/sk
70031.1

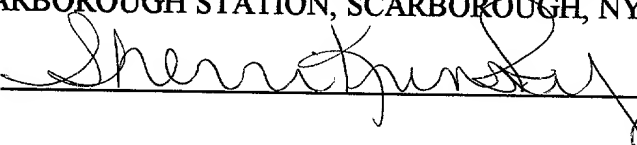
Enclosed: Substitute Specification and Marked up copy of Translation

DATED: February 23, 2001
SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-0827
(914) 941-5600

SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, NO.: EL275480368US

McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.
SCARBOROUGH STATION, SCARBOROUGH, NY 10510-0827

BY:  DATE: February 23, 2001

A method and a device for placing and re-melting shaped parts of solder material

The present invention relates to a method for placing and re-melting a
5 multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement
of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond
pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material
on the bond pads. Furthermore, the present invention relates to devices
suitable for implementing this method, according to the preambles of
10 claims 9 and 14.

Methods of the type mentioned above are used for example in so-called
wafer bumping, in the production of so-called chip-size packages, or in
the production of ball grid arrays. Basically, the above-mentioned
15 methods involve the production of a multitude of uniformly shaped bond
pad metallisation areas or contact metallisation areas in a specified
arrangement, on a substrate surface. To this effect, the following methods
have been used up to now. In the first method, placement or arrangement
of solder material deposits on the bond pads takes place as part of an
20 individual placement method, and subsequent re-melting takes place by a
separate application of heat energy, for example laser energy, to the
solder material deposits or to shaped parts of solder material. In the
second method, for example in a mask application process, solder
material deposits are applied as a paste-like material, and subsequent re-
25 melting is carried out in an oven, at the same time for all the solder
material deposits.

The first method is particularly advantageous in that as a result of
individual application of thermal energy to the solder material deposits or
30 to the shaped parts of solder material, in particular in the case where
laser energy is used, the substrate is exposed to as little thermal load as
possible. However, this method is also correspondingly slow in its

implementation. The second method, in particular due to the rapidly progressing re-melting process, makes it possible to achieve a large throughput with accordingly large numbers being produced. However, the implementation of such a method is associated with considerable
5 production costs, in particular due to the considerable expense of the equipment required. Furthermore, depending on the type of the substrate to be treated in this way, problems will be encountered due to the substantial thermal loads experienced.

10 WO 98/12738 describes a method in which an aperture screen is arranged above a substrate which comprises a bond pad arrangement, such that the apertures present in the aperture screen correspond to the bond pads of the substrate. Subsequently, by means of a vacuum pipette, individual shaped parts of solder material are inserted in the apertures of the
15 aperture screen. After the arrangement has been preheated in an oven, the shaped parts of solder material are melted on by application of xenon light which is projected from the side of the aperture screen facing away from the substrate.

20 It is thus the object of the present invention to propose a method of the type mentioned in the introduction, and to propose a device which is suitable for implementing such a method, which device and method make it possible to place and subsequently re-melt a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on bond pads of a substrate as economically as possible
25 while at the same time keeping thermal exposure of the substrate as low as possible.

This object is met by a method with the characteristics of claim 1, and by a device with the characteristics of claim 9 or 14.

30

In the method according to the invention, first a template device which comprises a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped

parts of solder materials, is arranged opposite a substrate comprising a bond pad arrangement such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads, followed by scanning of the template aperture with an optical scanning device for detecting shaped parts of solder material, and then followed by application of laser energy, from a laser device which is arranged at the rear of the template device, to the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures, such that laser energy is applied through the template device, to the shaped parts of solder material.

10

This makes it possible to detect any defective spots very early, i.e. prior to any quality assurance test which may take place after the re-melting action. Furthermore, the laser device can be made to be triggered only if a shaped part of solder material is present at the particular bond pad, thus preventing any thermal damage to the substrate due to the bond pad being directly exposed to laser energy.

Thus the process according to the invention combines a template method which is suitable for carrying out a particularly time-saving placement action, with a laser re-melting process which, from the point of view of thermal load, is particularly gentle on the substrate.

In a particularly preferred variant of the method, singling-out, which is necessary for applying the individual shaped parts of solder material, takes place in the template device itself, from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template device, by filling of the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device. In this variant of the method, the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, thus obviating the need for a separate feed device for feeding shaped parts of solder material to the template device.

In a variant of the method which is also very advantageous, singling out of the shaped parts of solder material by the template device takes place by removing shaped parts of solder material from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material arranged outside the template device, such that
5 during removal, the template device's template apertures, which are arranged in an aperture screen, are filled.

In this variant, the template device itself serves as a removal device, so that there is no need to provide a separate device for supplying shaped
10 parts of solder material to the template device and for removing shaped parts of solder material from said template device.

It has also been shown to be particularly advantageous if application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material takes place via the
15 optical scanning device which is already being used for detecting shaped parts of solder material.

If that variant of the method is used where, as explained above, the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder
20 material, it is advantageous if filling of the template apertures arranged in an aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen and which is open towards said aperture screen.

25 A further advantageous option when realising the variant of the method according to the invention where the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, consists of filling the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device by means of a paddle-wheel device which can be moved
30 parallel to the surface of the aperture screen, rotating on its movement axis.

CLAIMS

1. A method for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads;
c h a r a c t e r i s e d b y
the following process steps:
- Arrangement of a template device (21, 40, 51, 56, 65, 75) comprising a multitude of template apertures (27, 48, 61, 70) for accommodating shaped parts of solder material (20) opposite a substrate (23, 49, 64) comprising a bond pad arrangement (29), such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads (28, 50, 63);
 - Scanning of the template apertures (27, 48, 61, 70) with an optical scanning device (32) for detecting shaped parts of solder material (20);
 - Application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material (20) accommodated in the template apertures (27, 48, 61, 70) using a laser device (39) arranged at the rear of the template device (21, 40, 51, 56, 65, 75) such that said laser energy is applied to the shaped parts of solder material through the template device.
2. The method according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
in the template device (40, 51), singling out of the shaped parts of solder material (20) from the bulk of shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template device, takes place by filling the template apertures (48) arranged in an aperture screen (41).

3. The method according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
by means of the template device (56, 65), singling out of the
5 shaped parts of solder material (20) from a quantity (57) of shaped
parts of solder material outside the template device, takes place by
filling the template apertures (60, 70) which are arranged in an
aperture screen (58, 66).
- 10 4. The method according to claim 3,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material
(20) takes place via the optical scanning device (32).
- 15 5. The method according to claim 2,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
filling of the template apertures (48) arranged in the aperture
screen (41) of the template device (40) takes place by means of a
filling chamber (47) which can be moved over the aperture screen,
20 said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.
6. The method according to claim 2,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
filling of the template apertures (48) arranged in the aperture
25 screen (41) of the template device (51) takes place by means of a
paddle-wheel device (52) which is guided parallel to the surface of
the aperture screen, rotating on its movement axis.
7. The method according to claim 3,
30 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,

filling of the template apertures (60, 70) arranged in the aperture screen (58, 66) of the template device (56, 65), takes place by means of pressure below atmospheric.

5 8. The method according to one or several of the preceding claims,
 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,
 the pressure exerted on the shaped parts of solder material (20)
 accommodated in the template apertures (70) for establishing
 contact with the bond pads (63) is generated by means of pressure
10 above atmospheric.

 9. A device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material
 (20) on a bond pad arrangement (29) of a substrate (49), said bond
 pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads (50), and for
15 subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the
 bond pads, with an aperture screen (41) for exposed
 accommodation of simplified shaped parts of solder material in
 template apertures (48) of the aperture screen (41) allocated to
 individual bond pads (50) of the bond pad arrangement (29), , such
20 that the shaped parts of solder material can be exposed to laser
 energy from the rear by means of a laser device (39),
 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,
 the aperture screen (41) is designed as a container wall of a
 template device (40, 51) which is used to transfer the shaped parts
25 of solder material on the bond pad arrangement (29) and which
 comprises a container (47, 51) for holding a quantity of shaped
 parts of solder material, with the aperture screen comprising a
 singling-out device (47, 52).

30 10. The device according to claim 9,
 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,

the singling-out device (47, 52) is designed so that it can be moved over the aperture screen (41).

11. The device according to claim 10,
5 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the singling-out device is a filling chamber (47) which can be moved over the aperture screen (41), said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.
- 10 12. The device according to claim 10,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the singling-out device is a paddle-wheel device (52) which can be moved over the aperture screen (41), with radially open transport compartments delimited by paddles (54) of the paddle-wheel
15 device.
13. The device according to one or several of claims 9 to 12,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the singling-out device (47, 52) is accommodated in a closed space
20 (45) which is formed by the template device (40, 51) whose rear wall (42) which is opposite the aperture screen (41) is made so as to be transparent.
14. A device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material
25 (20) on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate (64), said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads (63), and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads, with an aperture screen (58, 66) which comprises a multitude of template apertures (60, 70) for accommodating shaped
30 parts of solder material,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,

the aperture screen (58, 66) serves as a housing part of a template device (56, 65) configured as a singling-out device, with the template device (56, 65) comprising a transparent rear wall (67) arranged opposite the aperture screen.

5

15. The device according to claim 14,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the diameter of the template apertures (60) formed in the aperture screen (58) is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material (20).

10

16. The device according to claim 14,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the diameter of the template apertures (70) formed in the aperture screen (66) is larger than the largest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material (20), and that the distance a between the aperture screen and the rear wall (67) is smaller than the smallest diameter d of the shaped parts of solder material (20).

15

17. The device according to one or several of claims 9 to 16,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the wall structure of the aperture screen (24, 41, 58, 66, 74) and/or the sidewalls (46) of the filling chamber (47), which can be moved over the aperture screen, is flexible across the area of the aperture screen.

20
25

18. The device according to claim 17,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the wall structure comprises at least three layers, with a flexible compression layer (79, 82) sandwiched between two wear-resistant surface layers (77, 78, 80, 81).

30

19. The device according to claim 18,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the compression layer (79, 82) is made from a plastic material, and
5 the surface layers (77, 78, 80, 81) are made from metal.

6/PAT

09/763785

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 FEB 2001

A method and a device for placing and re-melting shaped parts of
solder material

The present invention relates to a method for placing and re-melting a
5 multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement
of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond
pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material
on the bond pads. Furthermore, the present invention relates to a device
suitable for implementing this method.

10 Methods of the type mentioned above are used for example in so-called
wafer bumping, in the production of so-called chip-size packages, or in
the production of ball grid arrays. Basically, the above-mentioned
methods involve the production of a multitude of uniformly shaped bond
15 pad metallisation areas or contact metallisation areas in a specified
arrangement, on a substrate surface. To this effect, the following methods
have been used up to now. In the first method, placement or arrangement
of solder material deposits on the bond pads takes place as part of an
individual placement method, and subsequent re-melting takes place by a
20 separate application of heat energy, for example laser energy, to the
solder material deposits or to shaped parts of solder material. In the
second method, for example in a mask application process, solder
material deposits are applied as a paste-like material, and subsequent re-
melting is carried out in an oven, at the same time for all the solder
25 material deposits.

The first method is particularly advantageous in that as a result of
individual application of thermal energy to the solder material deposits or
to the shaped parts of solder material, in particular in the case where
30 laser energy is used, the substrate is exposed to as little thermal load as
possible. However, this method is also correspondingly slow in its
implementation. The second method, in particular due to the rapidly

progressing re-melting process, makes it possible to achieve a large throughput with accordingly large numbers being produced. However, the implementation of such a method is associated with considerable production costs, in particular due to the considerable expense of the equipment required. Furthermore, depending on the type of the substrate to be treated in this way, problems will be encountered due to the substantial thermal loads experienced.

It is thus the object of the present invention to propose a method of the type mentioned in the introduction, and to propose a device which is suitable for implementing such a method, which device and method make it possible to place and subsequently re-melt a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on bond pads of a substrate as economically as possible while at the same time keeping thermal exposure of the substrate as low as possible.

This object is achieved by a method with the characteristics of claim 1, and by a device with the characteristics of claim 10 or 15.

In the method according to the invention, first a template device which comprises a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped parts of solder materials, is arranged opposite a substrate comprising a bond pad arrangement such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads. Then follows application of laser energy, from a laser device which is arranged at the rear of the template device, to the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures, such that laser energy is applied through the template device, to the shaped parts of solder material.

Thus the process according to the invention combines a template method which is suitable for carrying out a particularly time-saving placement action, with said method, from the point of view of thermal load,

involving a laser re-melting process which is particularly gentle on the substrate.

5 In a particularly preferred variant of the method, singling-out, which is necessary for applying the individual shaped parts of solder material, takes place in the template device itself, from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template device, by filling of the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device. In this variant of the method, the template device itself
10 serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, thus obviating the need for a separate feed device for feeding shaped parts of solder material to the template device.

15 In a variant of the method which is also very advantageous, singling out of the shaped parts of solder material by the template device takes place by removing shaped parts of solder material from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material arranged outside the template device, such that during removal, the template device's template apertures, which are arranged in an aperture screen, are filled.

20 In this variant, the template device itself serves as a removal device, so that there is no need to provide a separate device for supplying shaped parts of solder material to the template device and for removing shaped parts of solder material from said template device.

25 Irrespective of the choice of the above-mentioned variants, it is advantageous if prior to the application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material, scanning of the template apertures using an optical scanning device for detecting shaped parts of solder material,
30 takes place.

This makes it possible to detect any defective spots very early, i.e. prior to any quality assurance test which may take place after the re-melting action. Furthermore, the laser device can be made to be triggered only if a shaped part of solder material is present at the particular bond pad, thus preventing any thermal damage to the substrate due to the bond pad being directly exposed to laser energy.

It has also been shown to be particularly advantageous if application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material takes place via the optical scanning device which is already being used for detecting shaped parts of solder material.

If that variant of the method is used where, as explained above, the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, it is advantageous if filling of the template apertures arranged in an aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen and which is open towards said aperture screen.

A further advantageous option when realising the variant of the method according to the invention where the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, consists of filling the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device by means of a paddle-wheel device which can be moved parallel to the surface of the aperture screen, rotating on its movement axis.

When realising the variant described above, of the method according to the invention, where the template device itself serves as a removal device for removing the shaped parts of solder material from a reservoir for shaped parts of solder material, it is advantageous if filling of the

template apertures arranged in the aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of pressure below atmospheric.

Irrespective of the variants, described above, for implementing the
5 process according to the invention, in any case the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures can be exposed to pressure so as to generate contact with the bond pads, by means of pressure above atmospheric applied in the template device. It is also possible to generate contact via mechanical pressure of the template
10 device itself.

The device according to the invention, which is particularly suitable for implementing the method according to the invention, provides for a template device comprising a container for accommodating a quantity of
15 shaped parts of solder material, with the container comprising a container wall arrangement, designed as an aperture screen, for conveying shaped parts of solder material to the bond pad arrangement, and with the aperture screen comprising a singling-out device such that shaped parts of solder material which have been singled out from the quantity of
20 shaped parts of solder material and allocated to individual bond pads of the bond pad arrangement, are arranged so as to be exposed, in template apertures of the aperture screen, and thus can be exposed to laser energy by means of a laser device arranged at the rear of the template device.

25 According to a preferred embodiment, the singling-out device is designed so that it can be moved over the aperture screen. The singling-out device can be a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen, said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.

30 A further advantageous option consists of the singling-out device being designed as a paddle-wheel device which can be moved over the aperture

screen, with radially open transport compartments delimited by paddles of a paddle wheel of the paddle-wheel device.

If irrespective of its design, the singling-out device is accommodated in a closed space which is formed by the template device whose rear wall, which is arranged opposite the aperture screen, is made so as to be transparent, it is possible to overlay application of the individual shaped parts of solder material to the bond pads of the bond pad arrangement of the substrate, with pressure above atmospheric. The same also applies to the re-melting process. It is particularly advantageous in this context if a protective gas atmosphere is used to generate the pressure above atmospheric.

In an alternative embodiment of the device according to the invention, the template device itself is a singling-out device, comprising a housing with an aperture screen, said aperture screen comprising a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped parts of solder material, and comprising a transparent rear wall, arranged opposite the aperture screen.

If pressure below atmospheric is applied to such a template device, it can itself serve as a singling-out device and/or removal device for removing shaped parts of solder materials from a reservoir containing shaped parts of solder material. In this case, due to removal of the shaped parts of solder material from the reservoir, automatic filling of the template apertures takes place as a result of the application of pressure below atmospheric.

If the diameter of the template apertures formed in the aperture screen is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, it is possible, when pressure below atmospheric is applied, to hold the shaped parts of solder material by partial vacuum to the aperture cross-

sections of the template apertures so that at the same time as singling-out, exposed arrangement of the shaped parts of solder material results which makes it possible, via the template device, to mechanically press the shaped parts of solder material against the bond pads of the bond pad arrangement.

If the diameter of the template apertures formed in the aperture screen is larger than the largest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, and if the distance between the aperture screen and the rear wall is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, it is possible to arrange the shaped parts of solder material in the interior of the template device, while maintaining the singled-out arrangement, so as to be able to carry out the subsequent re-melting action to a very large extent within the template device.

It is particularly advantageous if the wall structure of the aperture screen and/or of the sidewalls of the filling chamber, which can be moved over the aperture screen, is flexible across the area of the aperture screen. This makes it possible to achieve an aperture screen which contacts the substrate surface to a very large extent even if said substrate surface is uneven.

To this effect, the wall structure can comprise at least three layers, with a flexible compression layer sandwiched between two wear-resistant surface layers. It is particularly advantageous if the compression layer is made from a plastic material, and the surface layers are made from metal.

Below, preferred variants of the method according to the invention as well as preferred embodiments of the device according to the invention, used to this effect, are explained in more detail with reference to the drawings, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a variant of the method according to the invention;

5 Fig. 2 shows a variant of the method according to the invention using a template device comprising a filling chamber, prior to arrangement on a substrate surface and prior to carrying out the re-melting action;

10 Fig. 3 shows the template device shown in Fig. 2, after arrangement on the substrate surface;

Fig. 4 is a top view of the template device shown in Figs. 2 and 3;

15 Fig. 5 shows a further variant of the method according to the invention, using a template device comprising a paddle-wheel device, prior to arrangement on a substrate surface and prior to carrying out the re-melting action;

20 Fig. 6 shows the template device shown in Fig. 5, after arrangement on the substrate surface;

Fig. 7 is a top view of the template device shown in Figs. 5 and 6;

25 Fig. 8 shows a further embodiment of a template device after accommodating shaped parts of solder material;

Fig. 9 shows the template device shown in Fig. 8, after accommodating shaped parts of solder material;

30 Fig. 10 shows a further embodiment of the template device prior to arrangement on a substrate surface;

Fig. 11 shows the template device shown in Fig. 10, after arrangement on a substrate surface;

Fig. 12 is a partial view from below, of the template device shown in Figs. 10 and 11, with the template apertures being shown;

Fig. 13 is an enlarged sectional view of a template aperture along section XIII-XIII shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a top view of an embodiment of a template device with a multitude of template segments;

Fig. 15 is a sectional view of the filling chamber shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a sectional view of the template segment shown in Fig. 14, along section XVI-XVI shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 17 is an enlarged partial view of the section shown in Fig. 16; and

Fig. 18 shows a variant of the paddle-wheel device shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7.

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing one option for implementing a method for placing shaped parts of solder material 20 for a subsequent re-melting action. To this effect, a template device 21 is provided which comprises a housing 22 composed of an aperture screen 24 arranged opposite a substrate 23; a transparent rear wall 25 arranged opposite the aperture screen 24; and a sidewall frame 26 connecting the rear wall 25 to the aperture screen 24.

The aperture screen 24 comprises template apertures 27 in which the shaped parts of solder material 20 are arranged such that they establish

contact with associated bond pads 28 of a bond pad arrangement 29 of the substrate 23.

As can be seen from Fig. 1, the template device 21 comprises a pressure connection 30 which makes it possible to apply gas pressure to an interior space 31 of the template device 21. In the configuration shown in Fig. 1, a pressure above atmospheric present in the interior space 31 is applied to the shaped parts of solder material 20, thus resulting in contact being formed between the shaped parts of solder material 20 and the associated bond pads 28 of the substrate 23. In this configuration a re-melting action (explained below) can be initiated.

As shown by way of example in Fig. 1, in order to carry out the re-melting action, an optical scanning device 32 is arranged above the transparent rear wall 25 of the template device 21; said scanning device comprising a swivelling mirror 33 arranged in a scanning beam path 34. In the present case, a beam deflection device 35, designed as a prism, is arranged in the scanning beam path 34: said beam deflection device making it possible to decouple the detector ray path 36 from the scanning beam path 34. Depending on the rotational position of the swivelling mirror 33, the detector ray path 36 establishes an optical connection between the individual shaped parts of solder material 20 and the associated bond pads 28 of the substrate 23. In the present case, at the end of the detector ray path 36 there is an infrared detector 37 as well as a solder material detector 38 which is for example a CCD camera. At the end of the scanning beam path 34 there is a laser device 39 which, depending on the rotational position of the swivelling mirror 33, makes it possible to apply laser energy to the individual shaped parts of solder material 20.

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Although for reasons of clarity this is not shown in Fig. 1, the swivelling mirror 33 not only comprises a swivelling axis extending across the plane

of the drawing, but also a swivelling axis along the plane of the drawing, thus making possible area scanning of the template device 21 or the shaped parts of solder material 20 accommodated therein.

- 5 To carry out the re-melting action, the two-axis swivelling movement of the swivelling mirror 33 stops, triggered by the solder material detector 38. Activation of the laser device 39 to apply laser energy to the respective shaped parts of solder material 20 detected, takes place, also triggered by the solder material detector 38. During operation of the laser
10 device 39, the infrared detector 37 makes it possible to monitor the temperature, if necessary with respective changes in the settings of the laser device 39 being made.

- Fig. 2 shows a template device 40 which, analogous to the template
15 device 21 shown in Fig. 1, comprises an aperture screen 41, a transparent rear wall 42, a sidewall frame 43 and a pressure connection 44. Located in an interior space 45 is a filling chamber 47 which in the present example comprises four sidewalls 46 and which in the present case is delimited at the top and bottom by the rear wall 42 and by the aperture
20 screen 41 respectively. Arranged in the filling chamber 47 is a multitude of shaped parts of solder material 20 which are used to fill template apertures 48 in the aperture screen 41.

- Below the template device 40 shown in Fig. 2, there is a substrate 49
25 which in the present case comprises a surface curvature with a bow d.

- As shown in Fig. 3, when the template device 40 is arranged on the surface of the substrate 49, the aperture screen 41 conforms to the surface of the substrate 49. When this conformant state has been reached, the
30 filling chamber 47 is moved in a translatory way over the aperture screen 41. In this process, shaped parts of solder material 20 from the bulk of

the shaped parts of solder material 20 arranged in the filling chamber 47, are singled out into the template apertures 48 of the aperture screen 41.

This process is shown in Fig. 4 which is a top view of the template device 40, with the transparent rear wall 42 making it possible to see the interior space 45 of the template device 40.

The top view of Fig. 4 clearly shows that due to the translation movement of the filling chamber 47, filling of the template apertures 48 in the aperture screen 41 occurs. When the aperture screen 41 has been completely filled and when the filling chamber 47 has returned to its home position as shown in Fig. 2, application of laser energy to the individual shaped parts of solder material 20 can take place, as described with reference to Fig. 1. Via the pressure connection 44 provided in the sidewall frame 43, an inert gas atmosphere can be applied to the interior space 45. Apart from a non-oxidising re-melting action, said inert gas atmosphere can also provide the required pressure for pressing the shaped parts of solder material 20 against bond pads 50 of the substrate 49. (Fig. 3).

Fig. 5 shows a template device 51 which in the same way as the template device 40 shown in Figs. 2 to 4, comprises an aperture screen 41, a rear wall 42, a sidewall frame 43 and a pressure connection 44.

By contrast to the template device 40 shown in Figs. 2 to 4, the template device 51 comprises a paddle-wheel device 52 instead of the filling chamber 47 used with template device 40. The paddle-wheel device 52 comprises a paddle wheel 53 with paddles 54 which extend across the width of the interior space 45, as is shown in particular in Fig. 7. As is also shown in Figs. 6 and 7, for filling the template apertures 48 in the aperture screen 41, the paddle-wheel device 52 is moved along the aperture screen 41 in a translatory way while rotating. In this process, the

paddle-wheel device 52 pushes the bulk of shaped parts of solder material 20 ahead, while at the same time the paddles 54, which are preferably made so as to be elastic, displace shaped parts of solder material 20, moving them into the template apertures 48.

5

To prevent shaped parts of solder material 20 from leaving the template apertures 48 prior to arrangement of the template device 51 on the substrate 49, the aperture screen 41 comprises a closing screen 55 which has an aperture pattern that is identical to that of the aperture screen 41.

10 By a sliding movement relative to the aperture screen 41, the closing screen when moved to its closed position as shown in Fig. 5, closes the template apertures 48. In its open position, shown in Fig. 6, the apertures in the closing screen 55 are arranged and aligned so as to coincide with the template apertures 48.

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Figs. 8 and 9 show a template device 56 which at the same time serves as a removal device for removing shaped parts of solder material 20 from a reservoir 57. To this effect, the template device 56 with its aperture mask 58 is lowered to the reservoir 57 and through a pressure connection 61, pressure below atmospheric is applied to an interior space 59 of the template device 56. Due to the fact that the diameter of the shaped parts of solder material 20 is larger than that of template apertures 60 in an aperture screen 58 of the template device 56, singled out shaped parts of solder material 20 remain clinging in exposed positions to aperture cross sections 62 of the template apertures 60 when the template device 56 is withdrawn from the reservoir 57.

20

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Fig. 9 shows the arrangement, in preparation of a subsequent re-melting action, of the shaped parts of solder material 20 on bond pads 63 of a substrate 64. As shown in Fig. 9, in this embodiment of the template device 56 the pressure necessary for the shaped parts of solder material 20 to be pressed against the bond pads 63, can also be applied

30

mechanically via pressure exerted onto the template device, or by the inherent weight of the template device 56.

Figs. 10 and 11 show a template device 65 which like the template device 56 shown in Figs. 8 and 9, is also suitable for the removal of singled-out shaped parts of solder material 20 from a reservoir 57. Fig. 10 shows the removal position while Fig. 11 shows the application position. As is the case with the template device 56 shown in Figs. 8 and 9, the template device 65 also comprises an aperture screen 66, a transparent rear wall 67 and a sidewall frame 68. As is also shown in Fig. 10, an interior space 69 or gap is formed by a clearance a between the aperture screen 66 and the rear wall 67, with the clearance a being smaller than the diameter d of the shaped parts of solder material 20. By contrast, the diameter D of template apertures 70 in the aperture screen 66 is larger than the diameter d of the shaped parts of solder material 20. Thus, if pressure below atmospheric is applied to the interior space 69 via pressure connections 71 in the sidewall frame 68, the configuration as shown in Fig. 10 results, in which the shaped parts of solder material 20 are accommodated as they adhere to the template apertures 70.

In the application position shown in Fig. 11, the template device 65 is arranged above the substrate 64 so that there is only little clearance. To establish contact between the shaped parts of solder material 20 and associated bond pads 63 of the substrate 64, pressure above atmospheric is applied to the interior space 69 via the pressure connections 71.

Figs. 12 and 13 are partial views from below, of the aperture screen 66 which shows that the aperture screen 66 comprises a contact surface 72 with channels 73 interconnecting the individual template apertures 70. As shown in Fig. 13, the channels 73 make it possible for a gas which is kept at pressure above atmospheric in the interior space 69, to flow out. This makes it possible for the contact surface 72 to contact the substrate 64,

for defined arrangement of the template device 65 or the aperture screen 66, without this preventing outflow of the gas kept at a pressure above atmospheric.

- 5 Fig. 14 is a top view of an aperture screen 74 of a template device 75 which comprises a multitude of template segments 76. The template device 75 comprises a filling chamber 47 whose function and design have already been described. The sectional view of the filling chamber 47 according to Fig. 15 shows that the sidewalls 46 of the filling chamber 47
10 across the area of the aperture screen 74 are of a multilayer wall construction. Between two outer surface layers 77 and 78 made of metal so as to be wear resistant, there is a compression layer 79 made of a non-rigid plastic material, for example polyamide.
- 15 Fig. 16 is a partial section view of the aperture screen 74, while Fig. 17 is an enlarged partial view of this partial section. Fig. 17 shows that the wall design of aperture screen 74 essentially corresponds to that of the sidewalls 46 of the filling chamber 47. A non-rigid compression layer 82 is sandwiched between two outer surface layers 80, 81 which are wear
20 resistant.

The combined effect of sidewalls 46 designed in this way, of the filling chamber 47, and of the aperture screen 74, is a deformation ability as for example shown in Fig. 3. The wall design of the aperture screen 41
25 shown in Fig. 3 is identical to that of the aperture screen 74. Fig. 3 shows that as a result of such wall design, even major surface curvatures or instances of deformation of the substrate can be compensated for. Consequently, any impediments when carrying out the method for placing and re-melting a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on bond
30 pads of a substrate by means of different variants and embodiments, can to a very large extent be prevented.

Fig. 18 shows a paddle-wheel device 83 as a variant of the paddle-wheel device 52 shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. As is the case with paddle-wheel device 52, the rotational axis 85 of paddle-wheel device 83 is guided in a template device 84 in a translatory way. To this effect, the present

5 embodiment comprises lateral guide slots 93 provided in the template device 84. As indicated by arrows in Fig. 18, the translation of the rotation axis 85 can be accompanied by a counter rotation. As shown in Fig. 18, the rotation axis 85 comprises a gas inlet 86, in the present case in the form of a drill hole, which leads to gas outlet devices 87 extending

10 along the rotation axis 85. The gas outlet devices 87 can for example be longitudinal slots or rows of drill holes. Irrespective of the embodiment, the gas outlet devices 87 lead to transportation chamber compartments 89 delimited by paddles 88 of the paddle-wheel device 83. As is also shown in Fig. 18, these gas outlet devices make it possible for a gas stream 90

15 to be applied to the shaped parts of solder material 20 arranged in the transportation chamber compartments 89. The gas stream 90 is used to remove any shaped parts of solder material 20 which may cling to the elastic paddles 88. The gas flow 90 is also used to support the effect of the paddle-wheel device 83 which acts in the manner of a doctor blade.

20 In particular if a gas stream 90 of inert gas is applied to the shaped parts of solder material 20, a transparent cover 92, e.g. a glass pane, covering the interior space 91 of the template device 84, is advantageous. The use of dry gasses has been shown to be advantageous to counteract a tendency

25 of the shaped parts of solder material 20 to cling to the paddles 88. The use of nitrogen by way of a gas stream, too, has also shown to be advantageous.

CLAIMS

1. A method for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads;

c h a r a c t e r i s e d b y
the following process steps:

- Arrangement of a template device (21, 40, 51, 56, 65, 75) comprising a multitude of template apertures (27, 48, 61, 70) for accommodating shaped parts of solder material (20) opposite a substrate (23, 49, 64) comprising a bond pad arrangement (29), such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads (28, 50, 63);
- Application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material (20) accommodated in the template apertures (27, 48, 61, 70) using a laser device (39) arranged at the rear of the template device (21, 40, 51, 56, 65, 75) such that said laser energy is applied to the shaped parts of solder material through the template device.

2. The method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t , in the template device (40, 51), singling out of the shaped parts of solder material (20) from the bulk of shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template device, takes place by filling the template apertures (48) arranged in an aperture screen (41).

3. The method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,

by means of the template device (56, 65), singling out of the shaped parts of solder material (20) from a quantity (57) of shaped parts of solder material outside the template device, takes place by filling the template apertures (60, 70) which are arranged in an aperture screen (58, 66).

4. The method according to one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that, prior to the application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material (20), scanning of the template apertures (27, 48, 61, 70) using an optical scanning device (32) for detecting shaped parts of solder material (20) takes place.
5. The method according to claim 4, characterised in that, application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material (20) takes place via the optical scanning device (32).
6. The method according to claim 2, characterised in that, filling of the template apertures (48) arranged in the aperture screen (41) of the template device (40) takes place by means of a filling chamber (47) which can be moved over the aperture screen, said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.
7. The method according to claim 2, characterised in that, filling of the template apertures (48) arranged in the aperture screen (41) of the template device (51) takes place by means of a paddle-wheel device (52) which is guided parallel to the surface of the aperture screen, rotating on its movement axis (52).

8. The method according to claim 3,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
filling of the template apertures (60, 70) arranged in the aperture
screen (58, 66) of the template device (56, 65), takes place by
5 means of pressure below atmospheric.
9. The method according to one or several of the preceding claims,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,
the pressure exerted on the shaped parts of solder material (20)
10 accommodated in the template apertures (70) for establishing
contact with the bond pads (63) is generated by means of pressure
above atmospheric.
10. A device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material
15 (20) on a bond pad arrangement (29) of a substrate (49), said bond
pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads (50), and for
subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the
bond pads; comprising a template device (40, 51) with a container
(47, 51) for accommodating a quantity of shaped parts of solder
20 material, with the container comprising a container wall
arrangement, designed as an aperture screen (41), for conveying
shaped parts of solder material to the bond pad arrangement (29),
and with the aperture screen comprising a singling-out device (47,
52) such that shaped parts of solder material which have been
25 singled out from the quantity of shaped parts of solder material and
allocated to individual bond pads (50) of the bond pad arrangement
(29), are arranged so as to be exposed, in template apertures (48) of
the aperture screen (41), and thus can be exposed to laser energy
from the rear by means of a laser device (39).
30
11. The device according to claim 10,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,

the singling-out device (47, 52) is designed so that it can be moved over the aperture screen (41).

12. The device according to claim 11,

5 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,

the singling-out device is a filling chamber (47) which can be moved over the aperture screen (41), said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.

10 13. The device according to claim 11,

c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,

the singling-out device is a paddle-wheel device (52) which can be moved over the aperture screen (41), with radially open transport compartments delimited by paddles (54) of the paddle-wheel device.

14. The device according to one or several of claims 10 to 13,

c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t,

the singling-out device (47, 52) is accommodated in a space (45) which is closed by the template device (40, 51) whose rear wall (42) which is opposite the aperture screen (41) is made so as to be transparent.

15. A device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material

25 (20) on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate (64), said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads (63), and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads, with a template device (56, 65) which is configured as a singling-out device and comprises a housing with an aperture
30 screen (58, 66) comprising a multitude of template apertures (60, 70) for accommodating shaped parts of solder material, and which

further comprises a transparent rear wall (67), opposite the aperture screen.

16. The device according to claim 15,

5 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,
the diameter of the template apertures (60) formed in the aperture screen (58) is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material (20).

10 17. The device according to claim 15,

15 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,
the diameter of the template apertures (70) formed in the aperture screen (66) is larger than the largest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material (20), and that the distance a between the aperture screen and the rear wall (67) is smaller than the smallest diameter d of the shaped parts of solder material (20).

18. The device according to one or several of claims 10 to 17,

20 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,
the wall structure of the aperture screen (24, 41, 58, 66, 74) and/or the sidewalls (46) of the filling chamber (47), which can be moved over the aperture screen, is flexible across the area of the aperture screen.

25 19. The device according to claim 18,

30 c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,
the wall structure comprises at least three layers, with a flexible compression layer (79, 82) sandwiched between two wear-resistant surface layers (77, 78, 80, 81).

20. The device according to claim 19,
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t ,

the compression layer (79, 82) is made from a plastic material, and the surface layers (77, 78, 80, 81) are made from metal.

ABSTRACT

A method and a device for placing a multitude of shaped parts of solder material (20) on a bond pad arrangement (29) of a substrate (23), said
5 bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads (28), and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads (28), with arrangement of a template device (21) comprising a multitude of template apertures (27) for accommodating shaped parts of solder material (20) opposite a substrate (23) comprising a bond pad
10 arrangement (29), such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads (28); and application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material (20) accommodated in the template apertures (27) using a laser device (39) arranged at the rear of the template device (21) such that said laser energy is applied to the
15 shaped parts of solder material through the template device.

(Fig. 1)

Docket # 70031

A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR PLACING AND RE-MELTING SHAPED PARTS OF SOLDER MATERIAL

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for placing and re-melting a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on a bond pad arrangement of a substrate, said bond pad arrangement comprising a multitude of bond pads, and for subsequent re-melting of the shaped parts of solder material on the bond pads. Furthermore, the present invention relates to a device suitable for implementing this method with an aperture screen for exposed accommodation of simplified shaped parts of solder material in template apertures of the aperture screen allocated to individual bond pads of the bond pad arrangement, such that the shaped parts of solder material can be exposed to laser energy from the rear by means of a laser

device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Methods of the type mentioned above are used for example in so-called wafer bumping, in the production of so-called chip-size packages, or in the production of ball grid arrays. Basically, the above-mentioned methods involve the production of a multitude of uniformly shaped bond pad metallization areas or contact metallization areas in a specified arrangement, on a substrate surface. To this effect, the following methods have been used up to now. In the first method, placement or arrangement of solder material deposits on the bond pads takes place as part of an individual placement method, and subsequent remelting takes place by a separate application of heat energy, for example laser energy, to the solder material deposits or to shaped parts of solder material. In the second method, for example in a mask application process, solder material deposits are applied as a paste-like material, and subsequent remelting is carried out in an oven, at the same time for all the solder material deposits.

The first method is particularly advantageous in that as a result of individual application of thermal energy to the solder material deposits or to the shaped parts of solder material, in particular in the case where laser energy is used, the substrate is exposed to as little thermal load as possible. However, this method is also correspondingly slow in its implementation. The second method, in particular due to the rapidly progressing re-melting process, makes it possible to achieve a large throughput with accordingly large numbers being produced. However, the implementation of such a method is associated with considerable production

costs, in particular due to the considerable expense of the equipment required. Furthermore, depending on the type of the substrate to be treated in this way, problems will be encountered due to the substantial thermal loads experienced.

5 WO 98/12738 describes a method in which an aperture screen is arranged above a substrate which comprises a bond pad arrangement, such that the apertures present in the aperture screen correspond to the bond pads of the substrate. Subsequently, by means of a vacuum pipette, individual shaped parts of solder material are inserted in the apertures of the aperture screen. After the arrangement has been preheated in an oven, the shaped parts of solder material are melted on by application of xenon light which is projected from the side of the aperture screen facing away from the substrate.

SUMMARY AND OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

10 It is thus the object of the present invention to propose a method of the type mentioned in the introduction, and to propose a device which is suitable for implementing such a method, which device and method make it possible to place and subsequently re-melt a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on bond pads of a substrate as economically as possible while at the same time keeping thermal exposure of the substrate as low as possible.

15 In the method according to the invention, first a template device which comprises a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped parts of solder materials, is arranged opposite a substrate comprising a bond pad arrangement such that the shaped parts of solder material are associated with the individual bond pads, followed by scanning of the

template aperture with an optical scanning device for detecting shaped parts of solder material, and then followed by application of laser energy, from a laser device which is arranged at the rear of the template device, to the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures, such that laser energy is applied through the template device, to the shaped parts of solder material.

This makes it possible to detect any defective spots very early, i.e., prior to any quality assurance test which may take place after the re-melting action. Furthermore, the laser device can be made to be triggered only if a shaped part of solder material is present at the particular bond pad, thus preventing any thermal damage to the substrate due to the bond pad being directly exposed to laser energy.

Thus the process according to the invention combines a template method which is suitable for carrying out a particularly time-saving placement action, with said method, from the point of view of thermal load, involving a laser re-melting process which is particularly gentle on the substrate.

In a particularly preferred variant of the method, singling-out, which is necessary for applying the individual shaped parts of solder material, takes place in the template device itself, from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template device, by filling of the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device. In this variant of the method, the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, thus obviating the need for a separate feed device for feeding shaped parts of solder material to the template device.

In a variant of the method which is also very advantageous, singling out of the shaped parts of solder material by the template device takes place by removing shaped parts of solder material from a quantity of shaped parts of solder material arranged outside the template device, such that during removal, the template device's template apertures, which are arranged in an aperture screen, are filled.

In this variant, the template device itself serves as a removal device, so that there is no need to provide a separate device for supplying shaped parts of solder material to the template device and for removing shaped parts of solder material from the template device.

It has also been shown to be particularly advantageous if application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material takes place via the optical scanning device which is already being used for detecting shaped parts of solder material.

If that variant of the method is used where, as explained above, the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, it is advantageous if filling of the template apertures arranged in an aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen and which is open towards said aperture screen.

A further advantageous option when realizing the variant of the method according to the invention where the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, consists of filling the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device by means of a paddle-wheel device which can be moved parallel to the surface of the aperture screen, rotating on its movement axis.

Irrespective of the choice of the above-mentioned variants, it is advantageous if prior to the application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material, scanning of the template apertures using an optical scanning device for detecting shaped parts of solder material, takes place.

5 This makes it possible to detect any defective spots very early, i.e. prior to any quality assurance test which may take place after the re-melting action. Furthermore, the laser device can be made to be triggered only if a shaped part of solder material is present at the particular bond pad, thus preventing any thermal damage to the substrate due to the bond pad being directly exposed to laser energy.

10 It has also been shown to be particularly advantageous if application of laser energy to the shaped parts of solder material takes place via the optical scanning device which is already being used for detecting shaped parts of solder material.

15 If that variant of the method is used where, as explained above, the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, it is advantageous if filling of the template apertures arranged in an aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen and which is open towards said aperture screen.

20 A further advantageous option when realizing the variant of the method according to the invention where the template device itself serves as a reservoir for the shaped parts of solder material, consists of filling the template apertures which are arranged in an aperture screen of the template device by means of a paddle-wheel device which can be moved parallel

to the surface of the aperture screen, rotating on its movement axis.

When realizing the variant described above, of the method according to the invention, where the template device itself serves as a removal device for removing the shaped parts of solder material from a reservoir for shaped parts of solder material, it is advantageous if filling of the template apertures arranged in the aperture screen of the template device, takes place by means of pressure below atmospheric.

Irrespective of the variants, described above, for implementing the process according to the invention, in any case the shaped parts of solder material accommodated in the template apertures can be exposed to pressure so as to generate contact with the bond pads, by means of pressure above atmospheric applied in the template device. It is also possible to generate contact via mechanical pressure of the template device itself.

The device according to the invention, which is particularly suitable for implementing the method according to the invention, provides for a template device comprising a container for accommodating a quantity of shaped parts of solder material, with the container comprising a container wall arrangement, designed as an aperture screen, for conveying shaped parts of solder material to the bond pad arrangement, and with the aperture screen comprising a singling-out device such that shaped parts of solder material which have been singled out from the quantity of shaped parts of solder material and allocated to individual bond pads of the bond pad arrangement, are arranged so as to be exposed, in template apertures of the aperture screen, and thus can be exposed to laser energy by means of a laser device arranged at the rear of the template device.

According to a preferred embodiment, the singling-out device is designed so that it can be moved over the aperture screen. The singling-out device can be a filling chamber which can be moved over the aperture screen, said filling chamber being open towards the aperture screen.

5 A further advantageous option consists of the singling-out device being designed as a paddle-wheel device which can be moved over the aperture screen, with radially open transport compartments delimited by paddles of a paddle wheel of the paddle-wheel device.

10 If irrespective of its design, the singling-out device is accommodated in a closed space which is formed by the template device whose rear wall, which is arranged opposite the aperture screen, is made so as to be transparent, it is possible to overlay application of the individual shaped parts of solder material to the bond pads of the bond pad arrangement of the substrate, with pressure above atmospheric. The same also applies to the re-melting process. It is particularly advantageous in this context if a protective gas atmosphere is used to generate the pressure above atmospheric.

15 In an alternative embodiment of the device according to the invention, the template device itself is a singling-out device, comprising a housing with an aperture screen, said aperture screen comprising a multitude of template apertures for accommodating shaped parts of solder material, and comprising a transparent rear wall, arranged opposite the aperture screen. If pressure below atmospheric is applied to such a template device, it can itself serve as a singling-out device and/or removal device for removing shaped parts of solder materials from a reservoir containing shaped parts of solder material. In this case, due to removal of the

20

shaped parts of solder material from the reservoir, automatic filling of the template apertures takes place as a result of the application of pressure below atmospheric.

5 If the diameter of the template apertures formed in the aperture screen is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, it is possible, when pressure below atmospheric is applied, to hold the shaped parts of solder material by partial vacuum to the aperture cross-sections of the template apertures so that at the same time as singling out, exposed arrangement of the shaped parts of solder material results which makes it possible, via the template device, to mechanically press the shaped parts of solder material against the bond pads of the bond pad arrangement.

10 If the diameter of the template apertures formed in the aperture screen is larger than the largest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, and if the distance between the aperture screen and the rear wall is smaller than the smallest diameter of the shaped parts of solder material, it is possible to arrange the shaped parts of solder material in the interior of the template device, while maintaining the singled-out arrangement, so as to be able to carry out
15 the subsequent re-melting action to a very large extent within the template device.

It is particularly advantageous if the wall structure of the aperture screen and/or of the sidewalk of the filling chamber, which can be moved over the aperture screen, is flexible across the area of the aperture screen. This makes it possible to achieve an aperture screen which contacts the substrate surface to a very large extent even if said substrate surface is
20 uneven.

To this effect, the wall structure can comprise at least three layers, with a flexible

compression layer sandwiched between two wear-resistant surface layers. It is particularly advantageous if the compression layer is made from a plastic material, and the surface layers are made from metal.

5 The various features of novelty which characterize the invention are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and specific objects attained by its uses, reference is made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which preferred embodiments of the invention are illustrated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a variant of the method according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a variant of the method according to the invention using a template device comprising a filling chamber, prior to arrangement on a substrate surface and prior to carrying out the re-melting action;

15 Fig. 3 is a view of the template device shown in Fig. 2, after arrangement on the substrate surface;

Fig. 4 is a top view of the template device shown in Figs. 2 and 3;

Fig. 5 is a further variant of the method according to the invention, using a template device comprising a paddle-wheel device, prior to arrangement on a substrate surface and prior to carrying out the re-melting action;

20

Fig. 6 is a view of the template device shown in Fig. 5, after arrangement on the substrate surface;

Fig. 7 is a top view of the template device shown in Figs. 5 and 6;

Fig. 8 is a view of a further embodiment of a template device after accommodating shaped parts of solder material;

Fig. 9 is a view of the template device shown in Fig. 8, after accommodating shaped parts of solder material;

Fig. 10 is a further embodiment of the template device prior to arrangement on a substrate surface;

Fig. 11 is a view of the template device shown in Fig. 10, after arrangement on a substrate surface;

Fig. 12 is a partial view from below, of the template device shown in Figs. 10 and 11, with the template apertures being shown;

Fig. 13 is an enlarged sectional view of a template aperture along section XIII-XIII shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a top view of an embodiment of a template device with a multitude of template segments;

Fig. 15 is a sectional view of the filling chamber shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a sectional view of the template segment shown in Fig. 14, along section XVI-XVI shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 17 is an enlarged partial view of the section shown in Fig. 16; and

Fig. 18 is a view of a variant of the paddle-wheel device shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the drawings in particular, Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing one option for implementing a method for placing shaped parts of solder material 20 for a subsequent re-melting action. To this effect, a template device 21 is provided which comprises a housing 22 composed of an aperture screen 24 arranged opposite a substrate 23; a transparent rear wall 25 arranged opposite the aperture screen 24; and a sidewall frame 26 connecting the rear wall 25 to the aperture screen 24.

The aperture screen 24 comprises template apertures 27 in which the shaped parts of solder material 20 are arranged such that they establish contact with associated bond pads 28 of a bond pad arrangement 29 of the substrate 23.

As can be seen from Fig. 1, the template device 21 comprises a pressure connection 30 which makes it possible to apply gas pressure to an interior space 31 of the template device 21. In the configuration shown in Fig. 1, a pressure above atmospheric present in the interior space 31 is applied to the shaped parts of solder material 20, thus resulting in contact being formed between the shaped parts of solder material 20 and the associated bond pads 28 of the substrate 23. In this configuration a re-melting action (explained below) can be initiated.

As shown by way of example in Fig. 1, in order to carry out the re-melting action, an optical scanning device 32 is arranged above the transparent rear wall 25 of the template device 21; said scanning device comprising a swivelling mirror 33 arranged in a scanning beam

path 34. In the present case, a beam deflection device 35, designed as a prism, is arranged in the scanning beam path 34: said beam deflection device making it possible to decouple the detector ray path 36 from the scanning beam path 34. Depending on the rotational position of the swivelling mirror 33, the detector ray path 36 establishes an optical connection between the individual shaped parts of solder material 20 and the associated bond pads 28 of the substrate 23. In the present case, at the end of the detector ray path 36 there is an infrared detector 37 as well as a solder material detector 38 which is for example a CCD camera. At the end of the scanning beam path 34 there is a laser device 39 which, depending on the rotational position of the swivelling mirror 33, makes it possible to apply laser energy to the individual shaped parts of solder material 20.

Although for reasons of clarity this is not shown in Fig. 1, the swivelling mirror 33 not only comprises a swivelling axis extending across the plane of the drawing, but also a swivelling axis along the plane of the drawing, thus making possible area scanning of the template device 21 or the shaped parts of solder material 20 accommodated therein.

To carry out the re-melting action, the two-axis swivelling movement of the swivelling mirror 33 stops, triggered by the solder material detector 38. Activation of the laser device 39 to apply laser energy to the respective shaped parts of solder material 20 detected, takes place, also triggered by the solder material detector 38. During operation of the laser to device 39, the infrared detector 37 makes it possible to monitor the temperature, if necessary with respective changes in the settings of the laser device 39 being made.

Fig. 2 shows a template device 40 which, analogous to the template device 21 shown

in Fig. 1, comprises an aperture screen 41, a transparent rear wall 42, a sidewall frame 43 and a pressure connection 44. Located in an interior space 45 is a filling chamber 47 which in the present example comprises four sidewall 46 and which in the present case is delimited at the top and bottom by the rear wall 42 and by the aperture screen 41 respectively. Arranged in the filling chamber 47 is a multitude of shaped parts of solder material 20 which are used to fill template apertures 48 in the aperture screen 41.

Below the template device 40 shown in Fig. 2, there is a substrate 49 which in the present case comprises a surface curvature with a bow d.

As shown in Fig. 3, when the template device 40 is arranged on the surface of the substrate 49, the aperture screen 41 conforms to the surface of the substrate 49. When this conformant state has been reached, the filling chamber 47 is moved in a translatory way over the aperture screen 41. In this process, shaped parts of solder material 20 from the bulk of the shaped parts of solder material 20 arranged in the filling chamber 47, are singled out into the template apertures 48 of the aperture screen 41.

This process is shown in Fig. 4 which is a top view of the template device 40, with the transparent rear wall 42 making it possible to see the interior space 45 of the template device 40.

The top view of Fig. 4 clearly shows that due to the translation movement of the filling chamber 47, filling of the template apertures 48 in the aperture screen 41 occurs. When the aperture screen 41 has been completely filled and when the filling chamber 47 has returned to its home position as shown in Fig. 2, application of laser energy to the individual shaped parts

of solder material 20 can take place, as described with reference to Fig. 1. Via the pressure connection 44 provided in the sidewall frame 43, an inert gas atmosphere can be applied to the interior space 45. Apart from a non-oxidizing re-melting action, said inert gas atmosphere can also provide the required pressure for pressing the shaped parts of solder material 20 against bond pads 50 of the substrate 49. (Fig. 3).

Fig. 5 shows a template device 51 which in the same way as the template device 40 shown in Figs. 2 to 4, comprises an aperture screen 41, a rear wall 42, a sidewall frame 43 and a pressure connection 44.

By contrast to the template device 40 shown in Figs. 2 to 4, the template device 51 comprises a paddle-wheel device 52 instead of the filling chamber 47 used with template device 40. The paddle-wheel device 52 comprises a paddle wheel 53 with paddles 54 which extend across the width of the interior space 45, as is shown in particular in Fig. 7. As is also shown in Figs. 6 and 7, for filling the template apertures 48 in the aperture screen 41, the paddle-wheel device 52 is moved along the aperture screen 41 in a translatory way while rotating. In this process, the paddle-wheel device 52 pushes the bulk of shaped parts of solder material 20 ahead, while at the same time the paddles 54, which are preferably made so as to be elastic, displace shaped parts of solder material 20, moving them into the template apertures 48.

To prevent shaped parts of solder material 20 from leaving the template apertures 48 prior to arrangement of the template device 51 on the substrate 49, the aperture screen 41 comprises a closing screen 55 which has an aperture pattern that is identical to that of the

aperture screen 41. By a sliding movement relative to the aperture screen 41, the closing screen when moved to its closed position as shown in Fig. 5, closes the template apertures 48. In its open position, shown in Fig. 6, the apertures in the closing screen 55 are arranged and aligned so as to coincide with the template apertures 48.

5 Figs. 8 and 9 show a template device 56 which at the same time serves as a removal device for removing shaped parts of solder material 20 from a reservoir 57. To this effect, the template device 56 with its aperture mask 58 is lowered to the reservoir 57 and through a pressure connection 61, pressure below atmospheric is applied to an interior space 59 of the template device 56. Due to the fact that the diameter of the shaped parts of solder material 20 is larger than that of template apertures 60 in an aperture screen 58 of the template device 56, singled out shaped parts of solder material 20 remain clinging in exposed positions to aperture cross sections 62 of the template apertures 60 when the template device 56 is withdrawn from the reservoir 57.

10 Fig. 9 shows the arrangement, in preparation of a subsequent re-melting action, of the shaped parts of solder material 20 on bond pads 63 of a substrate 64. As shown in Fig. 9, in this embodiment of the template device 56 the pressure necessary for the shaped parts of solder material 20 to be pressed against the bond pads 63, can also be applied mechanically via pressure exerted onto the template device, or by the inherent weight of the template device 56.

15 Figs. 10 and 11 show a template device 65 which like the template device 56 shown in Figs. 8 and 9, is also suitable for the removal of singled-out shaped parts of solder material 20 from a reservoir 57. Fig. 10 shows the removal position while Fig. 11 shows the application

position. As is the case with the template device 56 shown in Figs. 8 and 9, the template device 65 also comprises an aperture screen 66, a transparent rear wall 67 and a sidewall frame 68. As is also shown in Fig. 10, an interior space 69 or gap is formed by a clearance a between the aperture screen 66 and the rear wall 67, with the clearance a being smaller than the diameter d of the shaped parts of solder material 20. By contrast, the diameter D of template apertures 70 in the aperture screen 66 is larger than the diameter d of the shaped parts of solder material 20. Thus, if pressure below atmospheric is applied to the interior space 69 via pressure connections 71 in the sidewall frame 68, the configuration as shown in Fig. 10 results, in which the shaped parts of solder material 20 are accommodated as they adhere to the template apertures 70.

In the application position shown in Fig. 11, the template device 65 is arranged above the substrate 64 so that there is only little clearance. To establish contact between the shaped parts of solder material 20 and associated bond pads 63 of the substrate 64, pressure above atmospheric is applied to the interior space 69 via the pressure connections 71.

Figs. 12 and 13 are partial views from below, of the aperture screen 66 which shows that the aperture screen 66 comprises a contact surface 72 with channels 73 interconnecting the individual template apertures 70. As shown in Fig. 13, the channels 73 make it possible for a gas which is kept at pressure above atmospheric in the interior space 69, to flow out. This makes it possible for the contact surface 72 to contact the substrate 64, for defined arrangement of the template device 65 or the aperture screen 66, without this preventing outflow of the gas kept at a pressure above atmospheric.

Fig. 14 is a top view of an aperture screen 74 of a template device 75 which comprises a multitude of template segments 76. The template device 75 comprises a filling chamber 47 whose function and design have already been described. The sectional view of the filling chamber 47 according to Fig. 15 shows that the sidewalk 46 of the filling chamber 47 to across the area of the aperture screen 74 are of a multilayer wall construction. Between two outer surface layers 77 and 78 made of metal so as to be wear resistant, there is a compression layer 79 made of a non rigid plastic material, for example polyamide.

Fig. 16 is a partial section view of the aperture screen 74, while Fig. 17 is an enlarged partial view of this partial section. Fig. 17 shows that the wall design of aperture screen 74 essentially corresponds to that of the sidewalk 46 of the filling chamber 47. A non-rigid compression layer 82 is sandwiched between two outer surface layers 80, 81 which are wear resistant.

The combined effect of sidewalk 46 designed in this way, of the filling chamber 47, and of the aperture screen 74, is a deformation ability as for example shown in Fig. 3. The wall design of the aperture screen 41 shown in Fig. 3 is identical to that of the aperture screen 74. Fig. 3 shows that as a result of such wall design, even major surface curvatures or instances of deformation of the substrate can be compensated for. Consequently, any impediments when carrying out the method for placing and re-melting a multitude of shaped parts of solder material on bond pads of a substrate by means of different variants and embodiments, can to a very large extent be prevented.

Fig. 18 shows a paddle-wheel device 83 as a variant of the paddle-wheel device 52

shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. As is the case with paddle-wheel device 52, the rotational axis 85 of paddle-wheel device 83 is guided in a template device 84 in a translatory way. To this effect, the present embodiment comprises lateral guide slots 93 provided in the template device 84. As indicated by arrows in Fig. 18, the translation of the rotation axis 85 can be accompanied by a counter rotation. As shown in Fig. 18, the rotation axis 85 comprises a gas inlet 86, in the present case in the form of a drill hole, which leads to gas outlet devices 87 extending to along the rotation axis 85. The gas outlet devices 87 can for example be longitudinal slots or rows of drill holes. Irrespective of the embodiment, the gas outlet devices 87 lead to transportation chamber compartments 89 delimited by paddles 88 of the paddle-wheel device 83. As is also shown in Fig. 18, these gas outlet devices make it possible for a gas stream 90 to be applied to the shaped parts of solder material 20 arranged in the transportation chamber compartments 89. The gas stream 90 is used to remove any shaped parts of solder material 20 which may cling to the elastic paddles 88. The gas flow 90 is also used to support the effect of the paddle-wheel device 83 which acts in the manner of a doctor blade.

In particular if a gas stream 90 of inert gas is applied to the shaped parts of solder material 20, a transparent cover 92, e.g. a glass pane, covering the interior space 91 of the template device 84, is advantageous. The use of dry gasses has been shown to be advantageous to counteract a tendency of the shaped parts of solder material 20 to cling to the paddles 88. The use of nitrogen by way of a gas stream, too, has also shown to be advantageous.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described in detail

to illustrate the application of the principles of the invention, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

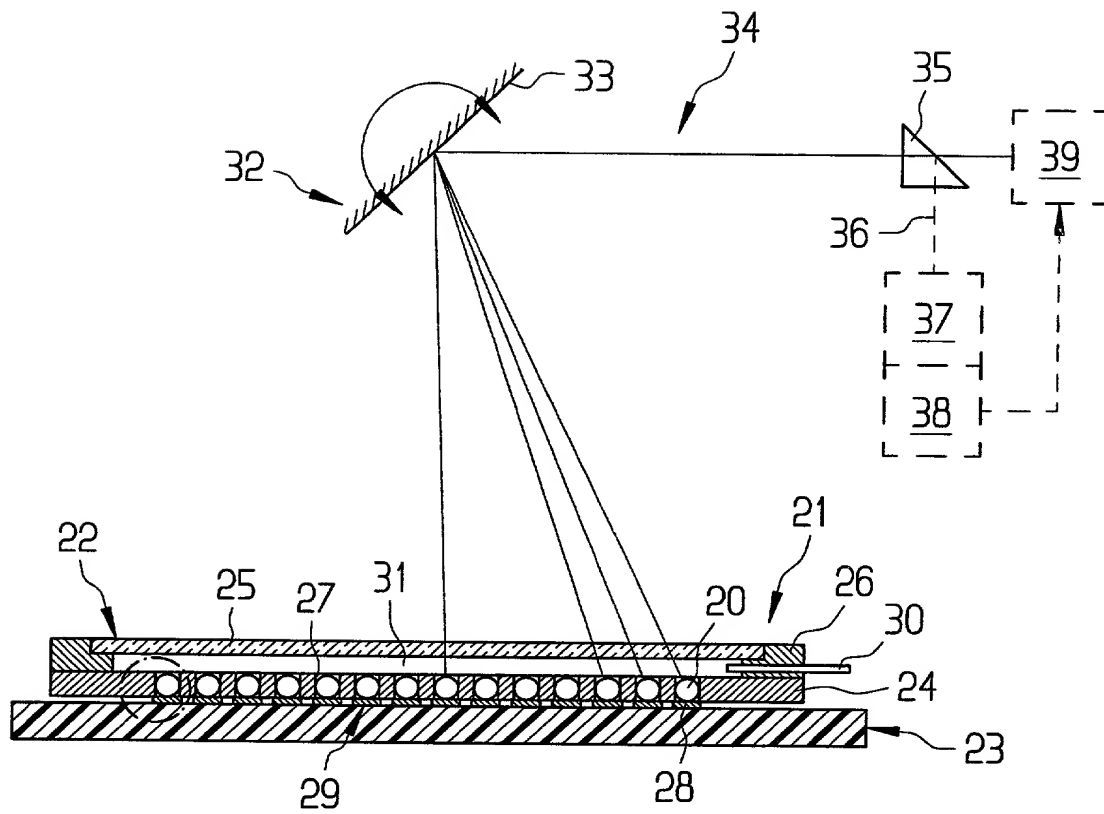
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FIG 2

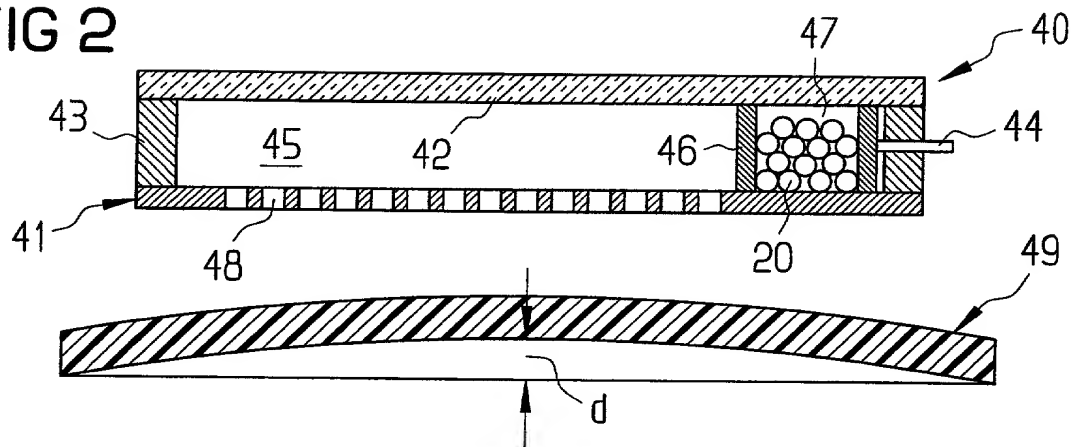


FIG 3

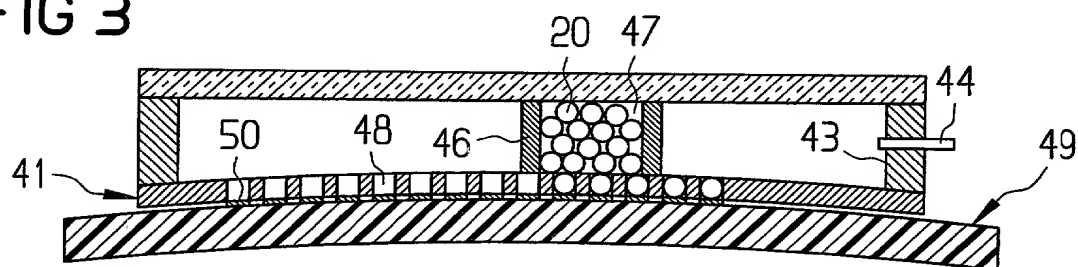


FIG 4

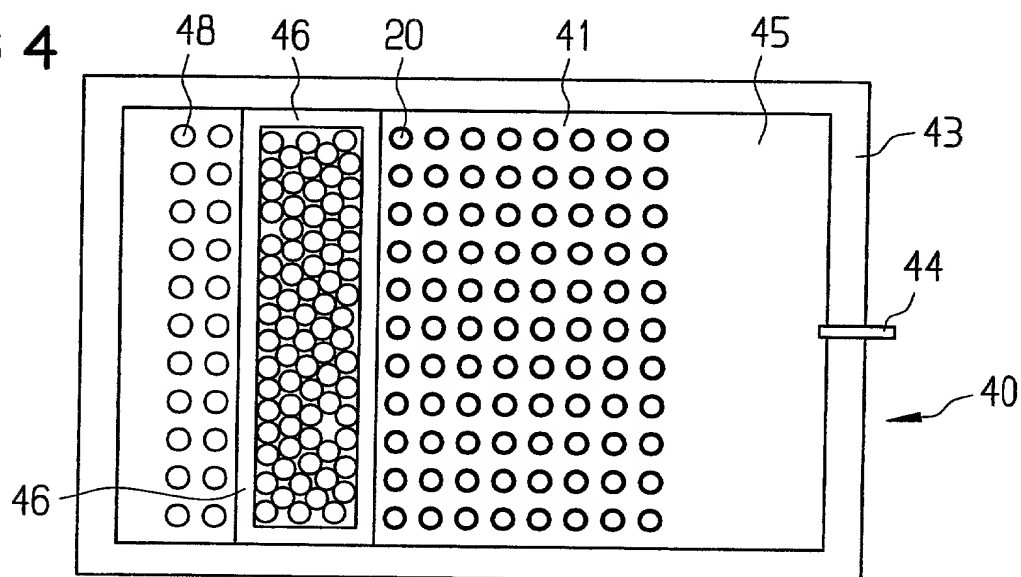


FIG 5

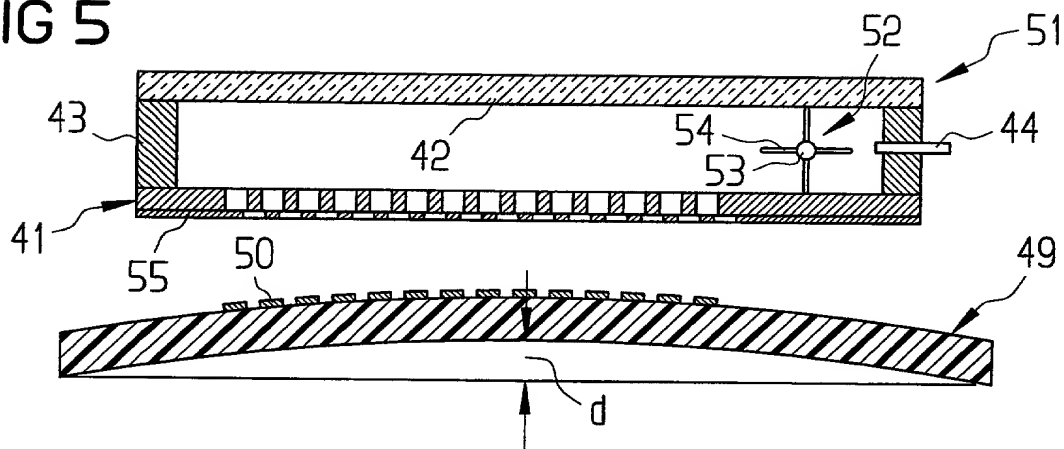


FIG 6

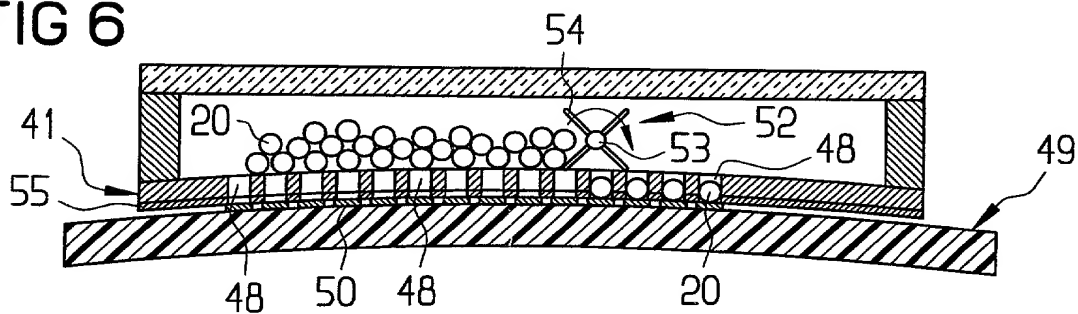


FIG 7

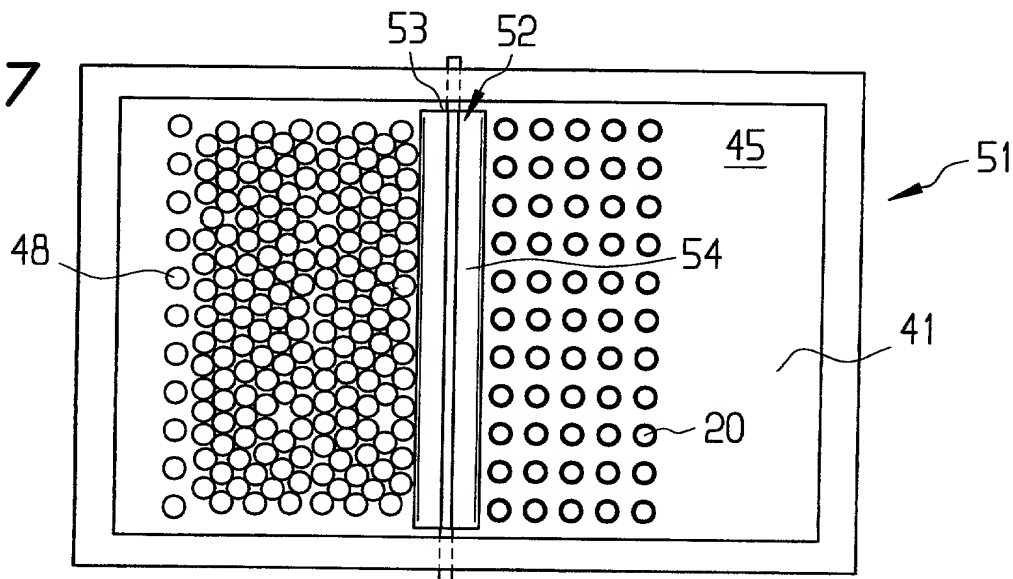


FIG 8

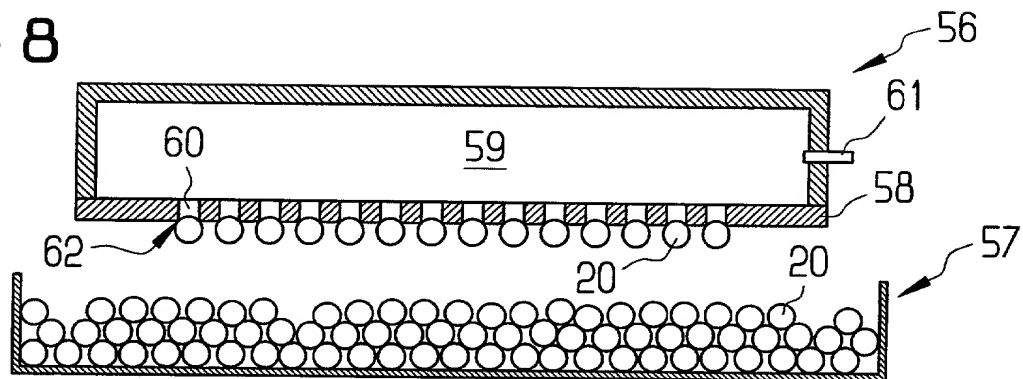


FIG 9

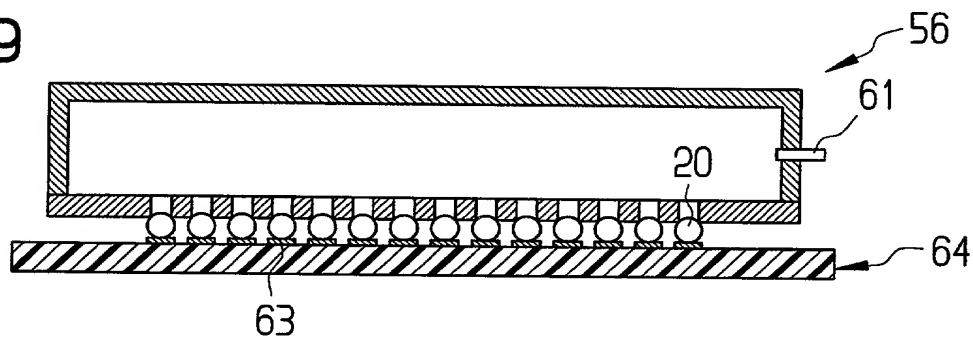


FIG 10

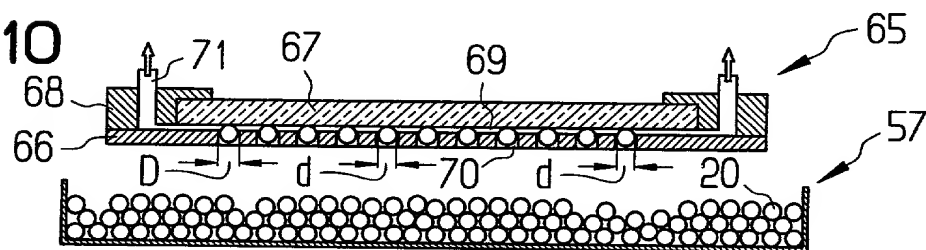


FIG 11

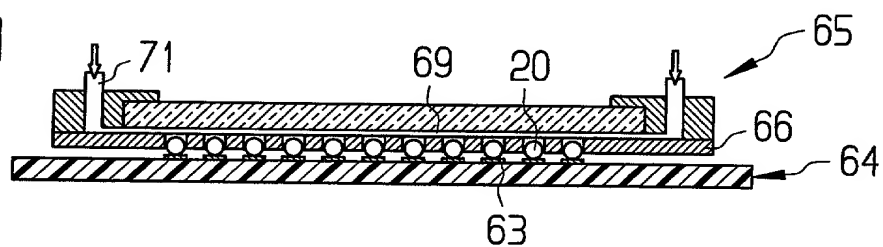


FIG 12

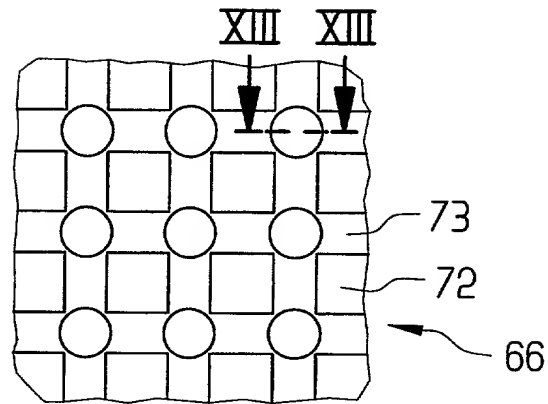


FIG 13

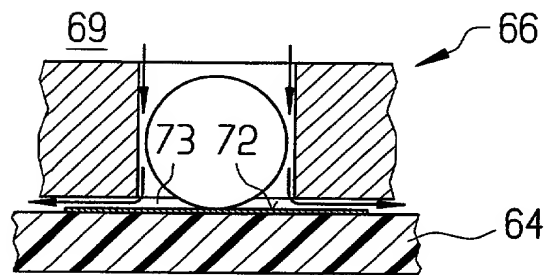


FIG 14

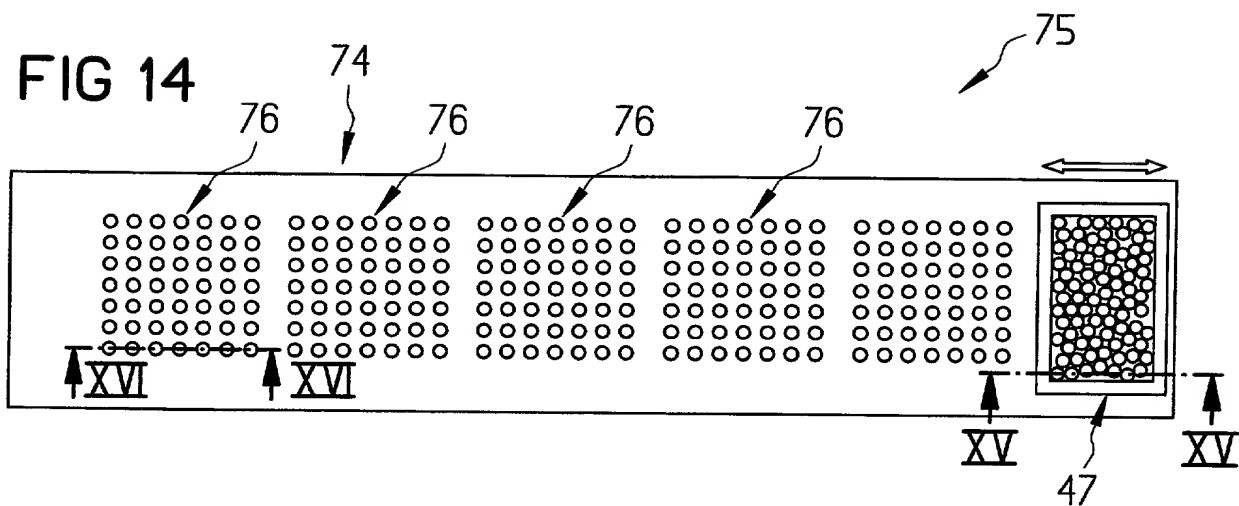


FIG 15

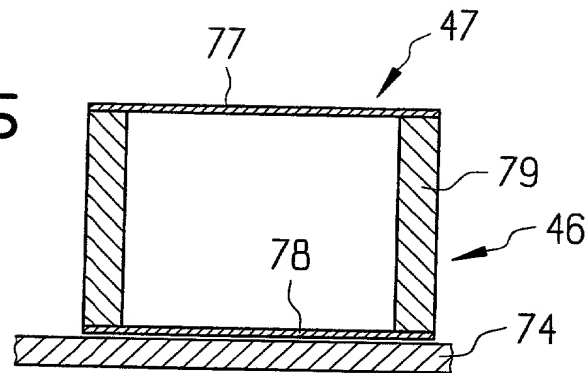


FIG 16

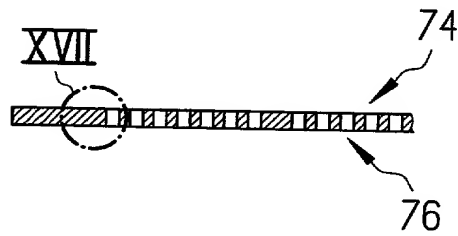


FIG 17

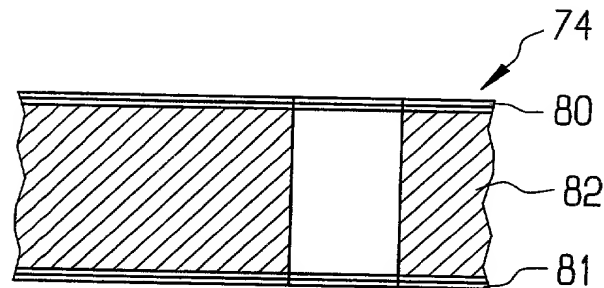
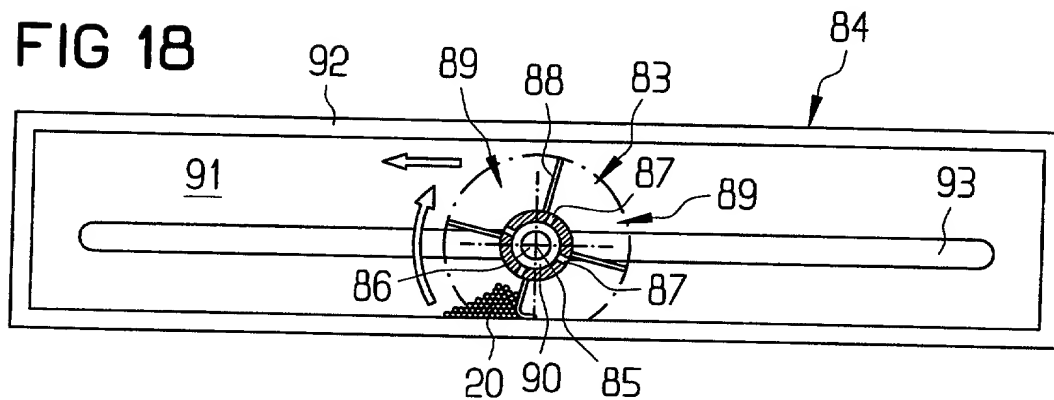


FIG 18



DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No. 70031

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR PLACING AND RE-MELTING SHAPED PARTS OF SOLDER MATERIAL

the specification of which

(Check one) ☐ is attached hereto.

☒ [X] was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/DE99/02554

on 18/August/1999

and was amended under PCT Article 19

CD

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 (a)-(d) or 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or 365 (a) of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

DE 198 38 532.3

(Number)

GERMANY

(Country)

25/August/1998

(Day/Month/Year filed)

Priority Claimed

YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: John J. McGlew, Reg. 17,722; and/or John James McGlew, Reg. 31,903; and/or Hilda S. McGlew Reg. 30,295; and/or Theobald Dengler, Reg. 34,575; and/or Clario Ceccon, Reg. 19,268; and/or Kristina M. Grasso Reg. 39,205.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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